

## Reviews and Bibliographical Notes.

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**Allgemeine Diagnostik der Nervenkrankheiten.** By Dr. PAUL JULIUS MOEBIUS, of Leipzig. F. C. W. Vogel, Leipzig, 1886.

Of writing books there is no end. So we neurologist might well think. Within the last eighteen months we have been favored with treatises on diseases of the nervous system, by Gowers, Granger, Steward, Ross, Althaus, Strümpell, not to mention a number of other works on some special branch of neurological science. And yet in spite of this vast array, this little book of Moebius (338 pages) subserves an excellent and distinct purpose.

It is evidently intended for the student and general practitioner, rather than for the specialist. Disregarding altogether the diseases of the nervous system as such, the author has set himself the task of giving a clear and concise exposition of the symptoms of these diseases, their anatomical and physiological basis, and of the methods employed in examining for these symptoms.

The book opens with few but pregnant remarks on the family and personal history of patients, on the methods of examining patients for mental and nervous troubles. These remarks are followed by chapters on affections of speech, on disturbances of the motor and sensory apparatus, of the special senses, and in each instance, the best methods of investigation are as fully discussed as are the significance and diagnostic importance of the symptoms themselves. The character of the book is best illustrated by reference to Chapter III., which treats of motor disturbances. Under this head we find a full discussion of paralysis, ataxia, tremor, fibrillary movement, choreic and tonic spasms, forced movements, associated movements, choreiform movements, athetosis, etc.

Under the head of Paralysis, we have first the methods in use for determining the amount of paralysis; then an excellent presentation of the course of motor tracts, differential diagnosis between the various kind of paralysis (cerebral, spinal, and peripheral), and so on.

In short, just the kind of information which a student would expect to find in a book of reference. We have singled out

but a single chapter, but we can assert that every chapter has been prepared with an equal amount of care.

The two appendices are as valuable as the main body of the work. The first contains a list of industries, which are a menace to the health of those engaged in them, and in the second, the anatomy and physiology of each muscle are fully discussed with reference to its action in health and disease.

We have but one fault to find with the author, and this is, that in his eagerness to be "up to date," he has occasionally overstepped the mark. In a book of this sort, facts and well-founded theories should be given and not mere speculations. Lichtheim's diagrams on aphasia are too recent to have stood the test of earnest criticism, and the author would, in our opinion, have done far better to have introduced Wernicke's diagrams, which are, moreover, much simpler than those of Lichtheim. We think, too, that it would have been wiser to have treated of aphasia—a subject as difficult as any in neuropathology—at the end rather than at the very beginning of the book. But, at most, these are simple errors in judgment, and do not detract greatly from the value of Dr. Moebius' work.

The illustrations are truly superb, many of them being reproductions from large atlases, which are inaccessible to the majority of readers. The general typographical work does honor to the publishers. The book merits translation. B. S.

**Die Principien der Epilepsie-Behandlung.** By Dr. ALBRECHT ERLÉNMEYER. J. F. Bergman, Wiesbaden, 1886.

This monograph of forty pages, is a reprint of a lecture delivered, Oct. 7, 1845, before the society of physicians, at Coblenz. It is essentially a plea for the conscientious examination and treatment of epileptics, the author insisting that, if care were taken in searching for the etiological factors in each and every case, the results of treatment would be much more satisfactory than they now are.

Among the various questions of interest which the author raises, is the one, whether in cases in which a series of attacks occur at short intervals, and these are then followed by a complete rest for several years, this period of rest in turn, being succeeded by fresh attacks, these fresh attacks may not be looked upon in the light of a primary affection, dependent upon a special cause, and standing in no connection, whatsoever, with the first series of attacks. If this can be answered in the affirmative, then the special etiological factor must be sought, and treatment instituted accordingly.

The authors views in reference to the so-called reflex epilepsies from the nose, throat, or vocal cords, are no doubt correct. He believes that many such cases are not reflex epilepsies at all, but are epileptic attacks due to carbonic acid-poisoning, in consequence of the disease of these parts,—the hypertrophy of the nasal membrane, or the new formation on the vocal cords admitting only of an insufficient supply of air.